

Timothy Olubodun, a final year student of the Adeyemi College of Education in Ondo, died in an accident on his way to Ibadan to repair his smashed android phone. TAIWO ADEBULU reports.

## 'Live today as it were the last'

### • Student's last words before death in crash

**H**E saw the Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) ongoing strike as an opportunity to do something in school. So, he did not leave when some of his fellow students at the Adeyemi College of Education in Ondo were leaving. The late Timothy Olubodun, a final year student of Primary Education Studies (PES) in English, stayed back in school to acquire more skills.

He felt the strike was an opportunity to add value to his life by learning a trade before graduation.

Last week, the late Timothy travelled to Ibadan to repair the screen of his android phone, which got smashed. With the hope of returning to Ondo after the repair, the late Timothy told his colleagues: "I will be back soon."

He never did. The vehicle in which he was travelling was involved in an ac-

cident on the Gbongan-Ikire Road. He died on the spot.

Eyewitnesses told CAMPUSLIFE that the driver of the ill-fated bus lost control of the vehicle, which was said to be on top speed. The bus rammmed into an electric pole on the highway. Timothy was said to be the only occupant that died in the 18-seater vehicle.

Other passengers, it was learnt, sustained severe injuries and are receiving treatment at the State General Hospital in Ikire, Osun State.

Before his death, Timothy, was the course representative in his department and choir coordinator of Winners Campus Fellowship in the college.

At his funeral in Akure South Local Government Cemetery in Ondo State, last Friday, bereaved relatives recalled his last

moment with them.

His elder brother, Sunday, who said the deceased was the last child of the family, described him as "an easy-going and friendly person whom everyone loved to be with".

His classmate and roommate, Oluwasunkanmi Afiwajoye, said he was still devastated by his friend's death. Oluwasunkanmi said he had a telephone conversation with the late Timothy three hours before the accident. He said the deceased was a bundle of inspiration to his friends.

"He had been my friend since our secondary school days. He was a mentor and confidant. The day he died, we chatted on 2go social network. I never knew that would be our last conversation," Olawunmi Olorunmola, the deceased's classmate, said.

A Winners Campus Fellowship member, who did not say her name, said everyone knew "Brother Timothy" as a vibrant member of the fellowship. She said: "He was the choir coordinator; a vibrant one at that."

Two days before the ill-fated journey, the



• The late Timothy

late Timothy wrote on his Facebook page: "Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past; live this day, as it were thy last."

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and the belief that through effective representation and impactful laws, things will change for the better in the country.

**Do you think student unionism is achieving its aim in Nigeria?**

It depends on how one looks at it. But I must add that there has been progress and

shortfall. In my opinion, students have benefitted more from students' unionism. Some lives have improved; students are decorous now compared to the past when they destroyed property before making their griev-

ances known to the authorities. Some needless protests by student-leaders have altered academic calendars negatively. Such is bad for academics.

**What is your advice to student-politicians?**  
They must acquire knowledge and develop

competence in their chosen careers. They must also possess a good character before going into politics fully. As young politicians, we must not allow material gains to becloud our motivation to render selfless service to the society. Above all, they should see politics as a vehicle to advance the cause of humanity and not to attain leadership position without good reason to lead the people.

## 'Politics is an avenue to serve'